

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) An alkylglycol alkoxyate or alkyldiglycol alkoxyate that is free from alcohol and having a homolog distribution specific for alkylglycols ~~alkylglycol results~~ such that at least 50% of the sum of homologs of the total homologs present are the homolog having the desired number of alkylene oxide units, the homolog having one alkylene oxide unit less than the desired number, and the homolog having one additional alkylene oxide unit than the desired number, the alkylglycol alkoxyate or alkyldiglycol alkoxyate is obtained by the process comprising: alkoxyating C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols with C₂₋₅-alkoxides to an average degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8, based on the C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols.

16. (Previously Presented) A mixture of C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols -or diglycols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8 as claimed in claim 15, and surfactants which, dissolved in an amount of 5 g/l of water, exhibit an interfacial tension of less than 45 mN/m at 20°C, and/or dihydroxyalkynes or derivatives thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) A mixture as claimed in claim 16, wherein the surfactants are nonionic surfactants and are chosen from C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₉₋₂₀-alkanols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 3 to 30, and mixtures thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) A mixture as claimed in claim 16, wherein the surfactants are low-foam or foam-suppressing surfactants.

19. (Previously Presented) A laundry detergent, cleaner or wetting agent or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising a mixture as claimed in claim 16.

20. (Previously Presented) A mixture as claimed in claim 16, comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of the C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols, based on the total weight of the mixture or of the composition.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing the interfacial tension and accelerating the establishment of the interfacial tension in aqueous surfactant formulations or aqueous dispersions comprising: contacting the aqueous surfactant formulations or aqueous dispersions with C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8, as claimed in claim 15.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of lowering the viscosity of surfactant-containing formulations comprising: contacting these surfactant-containing formulations with C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8, as claimed in claim 15.

23. (Previously Presented) A laundry detergent, cleaner or wetting agent or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising a mixture as claimed in claim 17.

24. (Previously Presented) A laundry detergent, cleaner or wetting agent or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising a mixture as claimed in claim 18.

25. (Previously Presented) A laundry detergent, cleaner or wetting agent or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising alkylglycol alkoxylates or alkyldiglycol alkoxylates as claimed in claim 15.

26. (Previously Presented) A mixture as claimed in claim 17 comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of the C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols, based on the total weight of the mixture.

27. (Previously Presented) A mixture as claimed in claim 18 comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of the C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols, based on the total weight of the mixture.

28. (Previously Presented) A laundry detergent, cleaner or wetting agent or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation as claimed in claim 19, comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of the C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols, based on the total weight of the composition.